

satellite based telephones have been planned to be inducted in rural telephone network to improve telephone services in the rural areas.

Tapping of Telephones

3137. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware of the tapping of telephones in some States and particularly in Orissa;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the action taken against the persons involved in telephone tapping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Monitoring of telephones is authorised under the provisions of Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951 which prescribe stringent procedure to be followed in such cases. Authorisation orders for interception of telephones are issued by the State Home Secretaries in respect of State Government and Union Home Secretary in respect of the Central Government. Information regarding details of telephones monitored by the State Governments is not maintained by the Government of India. Ministry of Communications merely provides technical assistance in respect of orders issued as above. No case of illegal tapping of telephones has been reported.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

Telephone facilities in UP

†3138. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large part of the rural area in extensive State like Uttar Pradesh is still devoid of telephone facility;

(b) if so, the scheme of Government to connect all villages with telephone facility and by when it will be completed; and

(c) whether increase has been recorded at present in the 2102 number of rural telephone exchanges in the Eastern and Western

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.